

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A pre-expanded tampon pledge comprising a cellulosic fiber, wherein the tampon pledge has a density about 0.01 grams per cubic centimeter (g/cc) to about 0.39 g/cc and an absorbency about 6 grams to about 18 grams.

10 2. The pre-expanded pledge of claim 1, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

15 3. The pre-expanded pledge of claim 1, wherein said absorbency is achieved by said cellulosic fiber without the use of a transfer layer.

4. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledge has a volume about 8 cc to about 52 cc.

20 5. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 1, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledge in an amount about 1.3 grams to about 4.5 grams.

6. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledge has a diameter in an initial condition about

0.5 inches to about 1.75 inches.

7. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 1, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a cross-pad construction.

5

8. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 1, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a radial construction.

9. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 1, wherein

10 the tampon pledge has a flat pad construction.

10. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 1, further  
comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon  
pledge.

5

11. A pre-expanded tampon pledge having a density about  
0.01 g/cc to about 0.31 g/cc and an absorbency about 6 grams to  
about 9 grams.

20 12. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 11, wherein  
said density is about 0.15 g/cc to about 0.29 g/cc.

13. The pre-expanded pledge of claim 11, wherein the  
tampon pledge comprises a cellulosic fiber.

14. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 13, wherein  
said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of  
rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

5 15. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 11, wherein  
said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

16. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 11, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a volume about 7 cc to about 12 cc.

10 17. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 13, wherein  
said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledge in an  
amount about 1.6 grams to about 2.4 grams.

15 18. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 11, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a diameter in an initial condition about  
0.5 inches to about 0.8 inches.

19. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 11, wherein  
20 the tampon pledge has a cross-pad construction.

20. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 11, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a radial construction.

21. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 11, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a flat pad construction.

22. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 11, further  
5 comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon  
pledge.

23. A pre-expanded tampon pledge having a density about  
0.01 g/cc to about 0.32 g/cc and an absorbency about 9 grams to  
10 about 12 grams.

24. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 23, wherein  
said density is about 0.15 g/cc to about 0.30 g/cc.

25. The pre-expanded pledge of claim 23, wherein the  
tampon pledge comprises a cellulosic fiber.

26. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 25, wherein  
said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of  
20 rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

27. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 23, wherein  
said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

28. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 23, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a volume about 9 cc to about 14 cc.

29. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 25, wherein  
5 said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledge in an  
amount about 2.25 grams to about 2.75 grams.

30. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 23, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a diameter in an initial condition about  
10 0.65 inches to about 0.8 inches.

31. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 23, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a cross-pad construction.

32. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 23, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a radial construction.

33. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 23, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a flat pad construction.

20

34. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 23, further  
comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon  
pledge.

35. A pre-expanded tampon pledge having a density about 0.01 g/cc to about 0.05 g/cc and an absorbency about 9 grams to about 12 grams.

5 36. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 35, wherein said density is about 0.02 g/cc to about 0.035 g/cc.

37. The pre-expanded pledge of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledge comprises a cellulosic fiber.

10 38. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 37, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

15 39. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 35, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

40. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledge has a volume about 40 cc to about 60 cc.

20

41. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 37, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledge in an amount about 1.1 grams to about 1.7 grams.

42. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 35, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a diameter in an initial condition about  
1.25 inches to about 1.75 inches.

5        43. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 35, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a cross-pad construction.

44. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 35, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a radial construction.

10        45. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 35, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a flat pad construction.

15        46. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 35, further  
comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon  
pledge.

20        47. A pre-expanded tampon pledge having a density about  
0.01 g/cc to about 0.35 g/cc and an absorbency about 12 grams to  
about 15 grams.

48. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 47, wherein  
said density is about 0.20 g/cc to about 0.33 g/cc.

49. The pre-expanded pledge of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledge comprises a cellulosic fiber.

50. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 49, wherein  
5 said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

51. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 47, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

10  
52. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledge has a volume about 10 cc to about 15 cc.

15  
53. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 49, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledge in an amount about 3 grams to about 3.5 grams.

20  
54. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledge has a diameter in an initial condition about 0.65 inches to about 0.8 inches.

55. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledge has a cross-pad construction.

56. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 47, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a radial construction.

57. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 47, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a flat pad construction.

58. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 47, further  
comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon  
pledge.

10  
15  
20  
25  
30

59. A pre-expanded tampon pledge having a density about  
0.01 g/cc to about 0.39 g/cc and an absorbency about 15 grams to  
about 18 grams.

60. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 59, wherein  
said density is about 0.25 g/cc to about 0.35 g/cc.

61. The pre-expanded pledge of claim 59, wherein the  
tampon pledge comprises a cellulosic fiber.

20

62. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 61, wherein  
said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of  
rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

63. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 59, wherein  
said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

64. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 59, wherein  
5 the tampon pledge has a volume about 10 cc to about 15 cc.

65. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 61, wherein  
said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledge in an  
amount about 3.5 grams to about 4.5 grams.

10  
66. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 59, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a diameter in an initial condition about  
0.65 inches to about 0.8 inches.

15  
67. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 59, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a cross-pad construction.

68. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 59, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a radial construction.

20  
69. The pre-expanded tampon pledge of claim 59, wherein  
the tampon pledge has a flat pad construction.

70. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.